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**Title:**

ALP broadcast regarding 'Government will not undertake the giving of inducements to enterprise to go to country areas'.

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A.L.P. BROADCAST.

25th April  
~~23rd May~~, 1960.

The figures which the Light by-election brought to light serve to illustrate a most alarming feature of L.C.L. policy.

Under our rigged electoral system the Government will not undertake the giving of inducements to enterprise to go to country areas, nor will it undertake the job of starting country industries itself.

The result has been a steady decline in country towns. Kapunda now has over 400 fewer people living in it than went there in 1933 - its population has since that year declined by about the percentage as the State's population has increased. Everywhere there you can find empty houses and shops - the only population intake the area now gets consists of pensioners who find it is cheap to get a house there and who go there - in their own words - to die. Why won't the Government do something about it - well to that question there are two answers which they give:

- (1) That they are doing something. They then instance a small amount of money spent on schools, money spent on <sup>main</sup> the/roads passing through the area and that they have subsidised the building of community swimming pools. Not one of the things they cite has provided additional permanent employment in the area.
- (2) They say that it is impossible to get industries to go into country areas. They haven't tried. There is no reason from the cost angle why industries processing primary produce should be in Adelaide rather than in the primary producing areas. But since private owners of factories prefer to live in the city with its facilities, they need inducements from the Government to set up in country areas. The L.C.L. won't give the inducements. Every time the Labor Party has moved in the House of Assembly for a committee of enquiry to recommend industries and enterprises suitable to our country areas and the measures

to be taken to have them started, the L.C.L. has used its majority in the House to defeat the proposal.

The reason why is clear. If the L.C.L. did decentralise industry it would be taking some of those Labor voters now crowded into the metropolitan electorates where their votes don't count and into the sparsely populated country areas on which the L.C.L. now relies for its rigged Parliamentary majority. They dare not de-centralise - for that would mean that voting power would be evened up and since a majority of South Australians always vote Labor - the L.C.L. would be out of office.

This is one of the reasons why, not only country towns, but country landholdings have declined - we have fewer farmers working the soil today in South Australia than pre-war. The Labor Party has always sought closer settlement. We know that many young people today in this State want to go on the land - but they can't because under the L.C.L. there is sparser not closer settlement than before. So far from the big estates being broken up, land has been re-aggregated into large holdings and in a number of cases usable land is held by big landholders out of production.

On the Statute books of South Australia there are schemes for closer settlement. Let me read you the sections of last year's Auditor-General's report dealing with each.

"The accounts of this undertaking record the financial transactions in the application and administration of "Part X, Closer Settlement" of the "Crown Lands Act". The purpose of that part of the Act is to provide for the acquisition by repurchase, compulsorily or by arrangement of lands consisting mainly of large estates and to allot them under various tenures in suitable holdings for the purpose of extension of agriculture and closer settlement. There have been no major acquisitions of land for closer settlement since the year 1946-7 and operations are now concerned mainly with the collection of rents from lessees and interest and instalments from purchasers of land previously acquired and allotted."

"The Crown Lands Development Act, 1943, empowers the Minister to prepare Crown lands for settlement, and on the recommendation of the Land Board, to purchase any land for the purposes of the Act and allot prepared

lands to suitable settlers. The Land Settlement Act, 1944-1958 provides for the compulsory acquisition of land for settlement and where it is proposed to purchase or develop land at a cost exceeding £30,000, the proposal has first to be inquired into by the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Land Settlement. The operations of 1958-59 resulted in a deficit of £12,970 which represented a retrogression of £8,657 compared with the previous year. Expenditure on Loan Account for 1958-59 was solely in respect of developmental work on lands previously acquired.

The other scheme (apart from World War II Settlement for which money is provided by the Commonwealth and which is now substantially wound up) is to purchase land for graduates of Rosewater College, so that our young men trained to agriculture can get a start on the land. Nothing was spent last year for this purpose.